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Minutes

Faculty Senate

1977

April 19, 1977

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of April 19, 1977

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abell, Bartling, Buchanan, Connelly, Dolton, Elder, Goodrich, Hamand, Pierson, Rang, Rearden, Rooke, Shuff, Wood

MEMBER ABSENT: Helwig

SPECIAL VISITORS: V. Pres. Emeritus W. Zeigel, Reps. J. Edgar & L. Stuffle

FACULTY VISITOR: L. Williams

STUDENT VISITORS: D. Hesler, C. Robert, E. Meece

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m.

The minutes of April 12, 1977 were approved as published.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Minutes of March 24, 1977 BOG meeting.
2. Report of EIU for April 21, 1977 BOG meeting in Charleston.
3. Agenda of April 21, 1977 BOG meeting.
4. Copy of letter from Floyd Merritt to Dr. Marvin considering resignations in Speech Communications.
5. Memo from Dean Jaenike considering selection of portrait dedication committee.

REPORTS

1. Nominations Committee

Chairman Dolton reported progress of Distinguished Faculty Awards (7 nominations currently filed) and Student Faculty Awards (committee still needs volunteers).

2. UPC - Senate Dinner

Helwig reported a potential of 45 participants.

3. VP Selection Committee

Rooke and Elder noted that schedules for invitees are prepared and should be available immediately. Dates of visits were reported in the Eastern News.

4. Retirement Tea

Elder reported a tentative date of May 5 for the tea.

OLD BUSINESS

It was noted that the General Faculty meeting with President Marvin is scheduled for 2 p.m. on April 28 in the New Grand Ballroom. This date may be changed if the legislative hearing on Eastern's budget is held on April 28.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Portrait Dedication

Connelly appointed a Portrait Dedication Committee consisting of Bartling (Chmn.), Goodrich, and Rang.

After a brief recess the Senate met with the Honorable Jim Edgar, the Honorable Larry Stuffle, and Vice President Emeritus Bill Zeigel on matters of concern to the EIU faculty with major emphasis on funding of the retirement system.

Zeigel gave a brief history of the situation with particular reference to the gubernatorial vetoes that prevented stabilization of the system, especially the Walker veto of the Weaver bills in 1974.

Rep. Stuffle noted the current package of bills (HB 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, and 474) introduced at the request of Gibala of the retirement system. (Stuffle is the sponsor of the bills.) 470 is tabled but the balance of them are or will be on the floor with probable action in early May.

He also noted that HB 869 would regularize collective bargaining and is being given strong support. (Edgar noted that Thompson supported such action in his election campaign.)

Stuffle also noted that in the past 4 fiscal years, faculty at the Illinois Public Universities had received salary increases equal to only 57% of the increase in cost of living. During the same period, faculty in Illinois Private Universities had received salary increases of more than 100% of the increase in cost of living.

Rep. Edgar pointed out that, when the Appropriations Committee and the Legislature reached the point of apportioning available funds, pension plans were more easily cut than direct operation costs and the like.

Edgar also noted the lower priority accorded higher education by the current General Assembly. (Edgar and Stuffle are exceptions to this statement.) He noted the high priority given to the common school fund and welfare.

Rep. Edgar solicited information with respect to the governing board proposal made by the special task force set up by Howlett and Thompson before the election.

Both representatives spoke of the need for a more continuous contact by Eastern with the legislature. The benefits of having someone on the staff with major responsibility for lobbying and keeping legislative contacts active were emphasized.

The Senate expressed appreciation for the time and efforts taken by Edgar, Stuffle, and Zeigel.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m. The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. on April 26, 1977 in the University Union Martinsville Room.

Robert V. Shuff

Faculty Senate Secretary